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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/352,422 07/12/99 IWATA

E SONY-P9799

EXAMINER

WM02/0226

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2613

DATE MAILED:

02/26/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/352,422

Applicant(s)

IWATA, EIJI

Examiner

Tung T. Vo

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 20) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato (US 6,167,087).

Re claims 1-6, Kato discloses an encoding apparatus for encoding a data which comprises a plurality of block data including a plurality of element data which are sequentially transferred in form of a data stream, the encoding apparatus comprising a plurality of signal processing devices connected by a signal transfer means (fig. 1) on which said data is transferred each signal processing device comprising:

encoding means (105 of fig. 5) for encoding a block data including a plurality of element data on the signal transfer means;

a variable length coding means (21 of fig. 5) for carrying out a variable length coding of said encoded block data and outputting the variable length coded data via said signal transfer means in accordance with the data stream;

wherein each of variable length coding means (21 of fig. 6) detects when the encoded data of the previous block data in said data stream has been subjected to variable length coding (intra-coding) for the encoded data of the current block data encoded in that signal processing device and starts the variable length coding for the current encoded data after substantial end of that variable length coding (inter coding) (figs. 7A and 7B);

wherein the data stream is image data and each of encoding means carries out the encoding for every block image data of a predetermined plurality of block image obtained by dividing the image data (15 of fig. 6);

each of the variable coding means (21 of fig. 6) carries out variable length coding on the encoded data for every block image in a predetermined order based on the arrangement (zigzag pattern) of the block image data (fig. 2) on the image data;

wherein each of encoding means comprises: a motion compensation predicting means; a transform means is a DCT (15 of fig. 6), a Fourier transform, a Hadamard transform, or K-L transform, a quantizing means (Q) (16 of fig. 6), a local decoding means (IQ and IDCT) (17 and 18 of fig. 6), variable length coding means (21 of fig. 6) carries out variable length coding on the data for every quantized block image, where said block image data is the image data for every macroblock (fig. 1).

Re claims 7-9, claims 7-9 are the method claim which is rejected for the same reasons as the apparatus. See claims 1-6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato (US 6,167,087) in view of Takahashi et al (US 6,005,623).

Re claims 10-19, Kato teaches the encoding apparatus above for encoding the block data but Kato fails to particularly disclose a decoding apparatus for decoding the encoded block data. Since Kato teaches the encoding apparatus, the decoding apparatus is a reversible operation of the encoding apparatus as taught by Takahashi. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the decoding apparatus of Takahashi or any conventional and suitable decoder for the same purpose of decoding the encoded block data of Kato.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chung et al (US 5,699,119) discloses a quantization method and circuit therefor.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung T. Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-5874. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6306 for regular communications and (703) 308-6306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Tung T. Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2613

T.Vo.
February 16, 2001


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600